

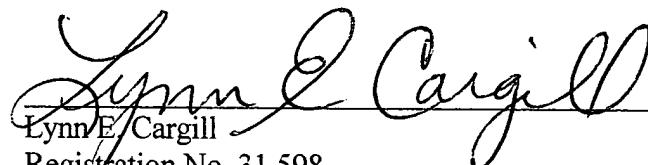
IN THE CLAIMS

All the claims have been amended on pages 13 - 15 so as to more clearly define the invention. No new matter has been incorporated into the amended claims.

Therefore, Applicants request the International Bureau of WIPO to substitute these sheets into the application before Publication is made. Thank you in advance for your kind consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

3DM TECHNOLOGIES, INC., ET AL.  
CARGILL & ASSOCIATES, P.L.L.C.



Lynn E. Cargill  
Registration No. 31,598  
56 Macomb Place  
Mt. Clemens MI 48043-5636  
(586) 465-6600

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What is claimed is:

5           1. A plastic forming apparatus for making plastic articles from particulate plastic materials, comprising:

               at least one male and one female mold capable of being heated;

               a tipping axis attached to at least one of the molds for dumping excess particulate material from the mold; and

10           a cooling means for cooling the mold after it has been heated.

2. A plastic forming apparatus for making plastics from at least two different particulate plastic materials, comprising:

15           two complementary open molds, each mold being mounted on a rolling cart, where said molds are capable being moved along a trunion track and capable of being heated;

               said molds having at least one open end with a sealing edge for mating with the other open mold, said open end being disposed for receiving the particulate plastic materials;

20           at least one hopper for dumping a first particulate plastic into the molds, said hopper having a distributor arm with a downwardly facing distributor tube including louvers for opening and closing the louvers to distribute the particulate material into the molds, said hopper being capable of being recharged with surplus particulate plastic material after the molds are used;

25           a supply of heat for heating the complementary molds;

               a second hopper for dumping a second particulate plastic into the molds, said second hopper also having a distributor arm with a downwardly facing distributor tube including louvers for selectively opening and closing the louvers to distribute the particulate material into the molds, said hopper being capable of being recharged with surplus particulate plastic material after the molds are used;

               a cooling station for cooling the heated molds; and

               a track for rolling the two carts from under the first hopper to a position under the second hopper and then into the cooling station.

3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the open molds are made of aluminum and further comprise heating plenums attached to the back of the molds to heat the molds.

4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the heating plenums include a propane fired heating unit capable of being tipped over after the particulate material has melted onto the mold, in order to discharge any remaining unmelted particulate plastic.

5. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the molds are designed to be held apart at a predetermined distance to allow for a resulting article having a sandwich configuration  
10 with a foamed center.

6. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the molds rotate on a horizontal axis on the rolling cart, such that after the desired melted skin has been formed on the mold, the mold can be tipped over to discharge excess plastic before the next step.

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7. The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising dump trays under each of the hoppers for receiving the discharge excess plastic.

8. The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a vacuum mechanism for  
20 transferring the excess particulate plastic contained in the dump trays back up into the hopper for further distribution into subsequent molds.

9. The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising water spraying nozzles in the cooling station for cooling the molds after the desired article has been formed.

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10. A method of forming plastic articles from a particulate plastic material, comprising:

heating two complementary open molds mounted on a rolling cart, where said molds are capable being moved along a trunion track and capable of being heated;

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dumping a first particulate plastic into the molds from a first hopper, said hopper distributing the plastic into the molds through a distributor arm with a downwardly facing distributor tube including louvers for opening and closing the louvers to distribute the particulate material into the molds;

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tipping the molds to discharge any excess particulate plastic material after a skin of melted plastic has been formed on the molds;

moving the rolling cart along the trunion track from underneath the first hopper to a second position under a second hopper;

dumping a second particulate plastic into the molds from a second hopper also having a distributor arm with a downwardly facing distributor tube including louvers for  
5 selectively opening and closing the louvers to distribute the particulate material into the molds, said hopper being capable of being recharged with surplus particulate plastic material after the molds are used;

moving the rolling cart along the trunion track from underneath the second hopper to a final position in a cooling station for cooling the heated molds; and

10 spraying the heated mold with cool water to cool the molds and removing the resulting article.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of heating the molds is accomplished by heating to a temperature of from about 190 degrees F. to about 500 degrees F.

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12. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of spraying the heated mold with cool water is accomplished by cooling to room temperature with a tap water supply.